

MW power by the year 2012. In order to meet the massive investment plan, POWERGRID has been raising loans from the market and international financial institutions like Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank from time to time. ADB has recently approved a direct loan of US \$ 250 million to POWERGRID for its grid strengthening, inter-regional and generation linked transmission projects. The loan has become effective from 10th January, 2001. POWERGRID is also negotiating a loan of US \$ 450 million from World Bank for implementation of its various transmission schemes.

Plan to revise the Pension Scheme

4351. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who received/proposed to receive old age pension released by the Central Government to the States of North-Eastern Region for the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002; and

(b) whether there is any plan to revise the pension scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) The number of persons of the North-Eastern States who received old age pensions under National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) during 2000-01 is 361682 as per reports received so far. The number of persons proposed to be covered during 2001-02 is under finalisation.

(b) No, Sir. At present, there is no plan to revise the NOAPS.

Old Age Pension Scheme in Assam

4352. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of beneficiaries under the Old Age Pension Scheme in Assam; and

(b) The amount allotted under the scheme to the State for the current year as well as for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) The